**Steps**  
FRANK O’HARA  
  
How funny you are today New York  
like Ginger Rogers in *Swingtime*  
and St. Bridget’s steeple leaning a little to the left  
  
here I have just jumped out of a bed full of V-days  
(I got tired of D-days) and blue you there still  
accepts me foolish and free  
all I want is a room up there  
and you in it  
and even the traffic halt so thick is a way  
for people to rub up against each other  
and when their surgical appliances lock  
they stay together  
for the rest of the day (what a day)  
I go by to check a slide and I say  
that painting’s not so blue  
  
where’s Lana Turner  
she’s out eating  
and Garbo’s backstage at the Met  
everyone’s taking their coat off  
so they can show a rib-cage to the rib-watchers  
and the park’s full of dancers with their tights and shoes  
in little bags  
who are often mistaken for worker-outers at the West Side Y  
why not

Appendix A:

(Source: https://people.creighton.edu/~mlm22940/writings/ohara/steps.html)

the Pittsburgh Pirates shout because

they won  
and in a sense we’re all winning  
we’re alive  
  
the apartment was vacated by a gay couple  
who moved to the country for fun  
they moved a day too soon  
even the stabbings are helping the population explosion  
though in the wrong country  
and all those liars have left the UN  
the Seagram Building’s no longer rivalled in interest  
not that we need liquor (we just like it)  
  
and the little box is out on the sidewalk  
next to the delicatessen  
so the old man can sit on it and drink beer  
and get knocked off it by his wife later in the day  
while the sun is still shining  
  
oh god it’s wonderful  
to get out of bed  
and drink too much coffee  
and smoke too many cigarettes  
and love you so much